REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in the application, various claims having been amended to more clearly define the invention. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-13 stand rejected as unpatentable over Birze, and claim s 3 and 7 stand rejected as unpatentable over Birze in view of Bressler. These rejections are both respectfully traversed. The claimed invention is not taught by the cited art for all of the reasons given in the response filed April 19, 2005. However, certain of these points will be further clarified here.

Claim 1 requires the reserving of a circuit segment on each trunk between switching nodes needed to set up circuits for particular calls between users at least one of whom is a preferred user. The examiner has identified exchanges 20 and 30 in Birze as corresponding to the claimed switching nodes, and has pointed to lines 31-41 of column 5 of Birze as describing the permanent reserving of circuit segments.

The claim further requires the dynamic allocation of circuit segments selected from the reserved segments in the event of a call set-up request by the preferred user, and the examiner has described the dynamic allocation of circuit segments in Birze as occurring after the reservation time has expired or after the call is terminated. However, the claim requires that, in response to a call set-up request, a segment is selected from reserved segments. In connection with the arrangement of Fig. 1 of Birze, the call set-up request is described in Birze at 45-46 of column 3, and it is further described at lines 54-55 of column 3 that a circuit connection is established in response to this call set-up request. At the time this happens, however, there are

no reserved segments to select from. On the other hand, after this happens, the call has already been established. See, for example, lines 3-5 of column 4 which describe the sending back of a ring tone from the exchange 30 to the exchange 20 "since a call connection has already been established."

In connection with the arrangement of Fig. 2 of Birze, the call set-up signal is described at line 55 of column 4. As described at lines 61-65 of column 4 of Birze, a call connection 80 is established between the exchange 20 and the exchange 30A. Module 60 within exchange 30A then receives the IAM signal over this established connection, and application module 120A then sends back a determined type return signal 150 to the exchange 20 as discussed at line 11-14 of column 5. Thus, during all times subsequent to the initial call set-up signal, a call has been established and signals are exchanged between the calling and called exchanges 20 and 30 using the established connection.

As described in the paragraph beginning at line 19 of column 5, a timer is set to a value corresponding to the time within which the exchange 30A expects to receive a response to the determined type return signal it sent back to the exchange 20. During this period of time, the established connection is maintained. After the expiration of the time period with no reply from the exchange 20, the call connection is allowed to terminate, as stated at lines 27-28 of column 5 of Birze.

Thus, during this entire time subsequent to the initial call set-up signal, the call has been established between the exchanges 20 and 30A and it is maintained, and the established call is allowed to terminate if there is no further activity. No reserved segments between the exchanges

20 and 30 prior to a call setup request, and therefore no reserved segments from which segments can be dynamically allocated in response to a call setup request.

The paragraph beginning at line 31 of column 5 describes that while the module 120A is waiting for a response from the exchange 20, the line status associated with the subscriber terminal 50A within the exchange 30A is marked as busy to prevent other incoming call connections from seizing the subscriber terminal 50A. Note that this is during a time period when the established connection between the exchanges 20 and 30A is still being maintained. And this is not the reservation of a circuit segment between exchanges 20 and 30A, but simply the marking of a line within the exchange 30A as busy so that some other call connection coming over the trunk will not seize it. The result of this, as clearly stated at lines 37-41 of column 5, is that:

> Consequently, the called party subscriber terminal 50A and associated line circuit is reserved by the first terminating exchange 30A for the calling party subscriber terminal 10 and the established call connection 80 associated therewith.

So a line circuit is reserved, but it is not for later selection in response to a call set-up request, but is reserved for an already established call connection. And the reserved line circuit is not a segment between the exchange 20 and the exchange 30A but is a line circuit from the exchange 30A to the subscriber terminal 50A. So again, we have no reservation of circuit segments between exchanges 20 and 30A at any time, and no dynamic allocation of such reserved circuit segments in response to a call set-up request.

Finally, after the call is terminated, there is no "dynamic allocation" of the line circuit that had earlier been marked as busy. It is a line circuit associated with a single subscriber and

must be used for all calls to that subscriber. That is, of course, why it is effective to mark that line circuit as busy if one does not want another call to connect to the subscriber terminal 50A.

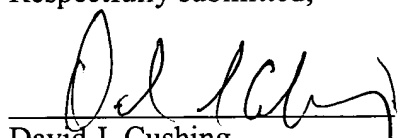
As will be clear from the above discussion, Birze fails to teach or suggest central elements of the invention claimed in claim 1. Claim 5 recites essentially similar distinctions.

Claim 9 recites the permanent reserving of a subset of circuit segments between switching nodes, and is not satisfied by the reservation of a line circuit between the exchange 30A and the called terminal 50A. Claims 11 and 12 describe according higher priority access to circuit segments between switching nodes, and this is not satisfied by providing preferential access to a line circuit between exchange 30A and subscriber terminal 50A.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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